

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 01769 011557Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----011558 093161 /53
O 011536Z MAR 77 ZFF-6
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2017
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL STUTTGART IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 1769

EXDIS

FOR STUTTGART FOR ELG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UG, US
SUBJECT: EVACUATION PLANNING FOR AMERICANS IN UGANDA

REF: A) STATE 43883 B) STATE 44687

1. EMBASSY CONCERNED AT MANNER IN WHICH QUESTION OF USING KINSHASA AS EVACUATION STAGING AREA FOR AMERICANS IN UGANDA WAS HANDLED. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, WE SOUGHT MOBUTU'S ASSISTANCE IN APPROACHING AMIN ABOUT SAFETY OF THE US CITIZENS BUT DID NOT RAISE POSSIBILITY OF KINSHASA BEING USED AS STAGING POINT. IF FLIGHT PLANNED FOR MARCH 1 HAD INDEED ARRIVED WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION, THIS COULD HAVE CAUSED CONSIDERABLE EMBARRASSMENT BOTH TO US AND GOZ. GOZ WOULD HAVE BEEN IN PARTICULARLY DELICATE SITUATION AS PRESENCE OF PLANE, ALTHOUGH CIVIL, WOULD HAVE GIVEN AMIN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE SPECTRE OF ENTEBBE RAID. AT SAME TIME, MOBUTU'S OWN CREDIBILITY ON THIS ISSUE COULD HAVE BEEN CAST IN DOUBT.

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2. WE EQUALLY CONCERNED THAT LOCAL SWISSAIR OFFICE HERE HAD BEEN NOTIFIED BY UNCLASSIFIED TELEX OF DECISION TO SEND PLANE AND THAT CLEARANCES (WHICH NORMALLY TAKE TWO WEEKS) WERE BEING HANDLED BY DEPARTMENT. AS WE WERE NOT INVOLVED IN SEEKING CLEARANCES, WE ASSUME NECESSARY AUTHORIZATIONS HAD BEEN ATTAINED THROUGH ZAIRIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

3. IN ORDER TO AVOID POSSIBILITY OF CONTRETEMPS OCCURRING SHOULD
DECISION BE MADE TO AGAIN USE KINSHASA AS STAGING AREA AS WELL AS
ASSURE SUFFICIENT LEAD TIME FOR NECESSARY AUTHORIZATIONS, WE
PROPOSE, ON CONTINGENCY BASIS, TO APPROACH MOBUTU TO INFORM HIM
OF OUR PLANS AND THEN TO APPROACH APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES TO
OBTAIN NECESSARY STANDBY CLEARANCES SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE FOR
EVENTUAL FLIGHT.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION.
CUTLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EMERGENCY EVACUATION, EMERGENCY PLANNING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703106/aaaadpog.tel
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Subject: EVACUATION PLANNING FOR AMERICANS IN UGANDA
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